



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7

901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

NOV 19 2009

Superintendent Tom Bradley
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
11 North 4th Street
St. Louis, MO 63102

Dear Superintendent Bradley:

RE: Review of Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, General Management Plan, Implementation, St. Louis, MO

Regions 5 and 7 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial GMP. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act 42 U.S.C. 4231, Council on Environmental Quality regulations 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The FEIS was assigned the CEQ number 20090357.

The GMP/FEIS includes four alternatives and six management zones for use within the Memorial. There is a no action alternative and three action alternatives (3, 4, and 5). Alternative 3 is the preferred alternative. This alternative, "Program Expansion," would capitalize on multiple opportunities to expand the visitor experience throughout the Memorial. To gain the widest breadth of ideas for expansion, a design competition would be initiated by the National Park Service in close coordination with partners.

A main concern that was addressed in EPA's comment letter on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was that the design competition for the preferred alternative has not yet begun, and that the result of an implemented design may cause "moderate to major long-term adverse to beneficial impacts on transportation." It appears this issue has been addressed in the FEIS, as design requirements for the competition have been amended such that potential impacts may now result in "moderate to major long-term beneficial impacts on the transportation resources of the Memorial" (conclusion, page 4-31).

EPA thanks you for addressing the observations and recommendations expressed in our DEIS comment letter. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding this project and your FEIS. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 913-551-7565 or via email at tucker.amber@epa.gov or you may contact Joseph Cothorn, NEPA Team Leader at (913) 551-7148 or via email at cothorn.joe@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Amber Tucker

Amber Tucker
NEPA Reviewer
Environmental Services Division

cc: Julie Guenther, U.S. EPA, Region 5, Chicago, IL
Nick Chevance, NPS, Omaha, NE